The University of Connecticut Chapter of

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Testimony Senate Bill 840, An Act Concerning Next Generation Connecticut

Members of the Committee:

My name is Faquir Jain. I am currently a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and in the newly formed Biomedical Engineering Department at UConn. I have been a member of the faculty since 1978. I also serve as the co-coordinator of Connecticut Microelectronics and Optoelectronics Consortium (CMOC), which is comprised of UConn, Yale, Trinity, U. Bridgeport, U. New Haven, Southern CT State University and Western Connecticut state University, and 18 small and large industrial corporations (such as Phonon in Simsbury, JDSU in Bloomfield, ATMI in Danbury and TranSwitch in Shelton). CMOC provides forum, via its annual symposium (March 13th this year at Yale University), for electronic and photonic research applied to energy conversion, biosensors, and consumer electronics.

The STEM-focused Next Generation support will significantly enhance research involving students and industry engineers and scientists. It's synergy with Technology Incubation Park (at Storrs) and Bioscience CT initiative will prime the engine for creating new small businesses and accelerate job creation in state for next 20 years and more.

The evidence of STEM-related industries creating more jobs per dollar is well known, and so is the fact that towns where Technologies parks are located have higher per capita income (per recent article in Hartford Courant).

A stronger UConn with state-of-the-art research facilities will be more conducive to enhanced collaboration with industry as well as nationally recognized private schools such as Yale, Harvard and MIT.

This will promote CT students remaining in the state and opening new industries and strengthening existing ones.

The UConn School of Engineering with significantly increased student enrollment and faculty size will achieve a critical mass needed to excel nationally. This will better serve the state enterprises. With the exception of few elite schools, most of the rank engineering institutions have faculty size in each department ranging from 70-100. A critical mass of faculty and student is needed to accelerate excellence. Next Generation will achieve it.

I will be glad to answer any questions.---Faquir Jain